

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9132

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ANDERSON

DEPARTMENT PASS TUNIS IMMEDIATE FOR SENATOR PERCY ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR. MO, JO

SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S JULY 5 COMMENTS TO SENATOR PERCY ON SOVIET-
JORDANIAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: KING HASSAN TOLD SENATOR PERCY AND ME JULY 5 THAT KING HUSSEIN HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL DURING RECENT MOSCOW VISIT IN OBTAINING A SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, WITHOUT PRESENCE OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN JORDAN. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR'S INITIATIVE IN RAISING SUBJECT, HASSAN IS WILLING TO HELP IF U.S. DECIDES TO UNDERTAKE CONCRETE EFFORTS TO MOVE HUSSEIN AWAY FROM SOVIETS, AND SUGGESTS COORDINATING WITH SHAH OF IRAN. WHILE HASSAN'S RELATIONS WITH HUSSEIN MAY HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK RECENTLY, OVER ABORTIVE F-5A DEAL, HASSAN MAY NEVERTHELESS BE ABLE TO PLAY HELPFUL ROLE. (OTHER SUBJECTS SEPTTEL.) END SUMMARY.

2. DURING SENATOR PERCY'S RELAXED, WARM ONE AND A HALF HOUR AUDIENCE WITH KING HASSAN ON JULY 5, SENATOR ASKED WHETHER HE HAD HEARD ABOUT RESULTS OF KING HUSSEIN'S RECENT TRIP TO SOVIET UNION. HASSAN, STRESSING HIS INFORMATION WAS VERY SENSITIVE AND HE WAS NOW TALKING "NOT TO SENATOR PERCY, BUT TO MR. PERCY AS A FRIEND OF MOROCCO AND JORDAN," SAID HUSSEIN HAD CALLED IN MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR IN AMMAN IMMEDIATELY AFTER TRIP AND INFORMED HIM THAT HIS
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EFFORTS IN MOSCOW HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. JORDAN WOULD

OBTAIN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FROM SOVIETS. ONE OF HUSSEIN'S PRIMARY CONCERNS HAD BEEN THAT HE DID NOT WANT SOVIET TECHNICIANS PRESENT IN JORDAN. SOVIETS HAD AGREED TO THIS CONDITION, AND SYRIA WOULD PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. AS WE KNOW, HASSAN COMMENTED, JORDAN IS IN PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING UNION WITH SYRIA.

3. SENATOR ASKED ABOUT FINANCING OF THIS PURCHASE, NOTING THAT THE SAUDIS HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN WILLING TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE FROM THE U.S. HASSAN CONFIRMED THAT SAUDIS DID NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH SOVIETS.

4. SENATOR PERCY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER JORDANIAN ARMS DEAL WITH USSR, INDICATING THIS MIGHT CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD JORDAN. HUSSEIN, HE SAID, SHOULD HAVE PROFITED FROM SADAT'S EXPERIENCE WITH RUSSIANS IN ORDER TO AVOID SUCH ENTANGLEMENT. SENATOR INDICATED THAT U.S. NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN ON AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM HAD COME VERY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT, ATTRIBUTING THE DIFFICULTY IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT NOT TO THE ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAD SUPPORTED IT FULLY, BUT TO SMALL GROUPS IN CONGRESS REFLECTING MISGUIDED AND SHORT-SIGHTED VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, WHO REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF THE SOVIETS GETTING THEIR FOOT IN THE JORDANIAN DOOR, THEREBY EXPANDING THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND UNDERMINING U.S. POTENTIAL TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS PEACE. ISRAELIS, SENATOR COMMENTED, SHOULD HAVE URGED AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT U.S.-JORDANIAN DEFENSIVE ARMS RELATIONSHIP IN ORDER TO KEEP JORDAN LINKED TO U.S.

5. HASSAN RETORTED THAT AT THE TIME RABIN COULD NOT HAVE TAKEN STRONG POSITION WITH U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY, AS HE HAD ONLY ONE OR TWO VOTE MAJORITY IN KNESSET. AGREEING IT WAS NEITHER IN JORDAN'S NOR ISRAEL'S INTEREST FOR JORDAN TO SEEK SOVIET ARMS, HASSAN BELIEVED THAT "UNWRITTEN UNDERSTANDING" WHICH HAD EXISTED BETWEEN
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JORDAN AND ISRAEL COULD NOW BE JEOPARDIZED.

6. SENATOR PERCY ASKED WHETHER ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO RECTIFY SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO JORDAN. KING REPLIED IT WAS NOT YET TOO LATE, BUT TIME WAS PRESSING. IF U.S. HAD ANY CONCRETE IDEAS, KING WAS WILLING TO HELP AS AN INTERMEDIARY, AS HE HAD CLOSE RELATIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN. HE THOUGHT A DUAL "SANDWICH" APPROACH COULD BE USED, WITH

HIMSELF AND THE SHAH OF IRAN PUTTING PRESSURE ON HUSSEIN. KING SUGGESTED SENATOR SPEAK WITH THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY, AND UNDERLINED THAT EXTREME DISCRETION WOULD BE NEEDED IN VIEW OF PRO-AND ANTI-HUSSEIN LOBBIES IN MOROCCO, AS WELL AS IN THE U.S. HE ADDED THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, I COULD SERVE AS YOUR CHANNEL IN ANY FURTHER EXCHANGES. HE ALSO SAID THAT IF U.S. DECIDED TO PROCEED ALONG THESE LINES, MATTERS SHOULD BE FULLY COORDINATED WITH IRAN, AND THAT OUR AMBASSADOR IN IRAN SHOULD INFORM SHAH WELL IN ADVANCE SO LATTER WOULD NOT BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE.

7. KING NOTED HIS SON WOULD BE GOING TO IRAN ON JULY 15 AND A MESSAGE COULD BE CONVEYED TO SHAH AT THAT TIME. KING ALSO SAID HE COULD SEND AHMED ALAUI, A CLOSE CONFIDANT FOR PAST 25 YEARS AND DIRECTOR OF LE MATING AND MAROC SOIR NEWSPAPERS, TO THE U.S. TO DISCUSS ANY DETAILS. HASSAN ALSO SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED (A) TO ARRANGE CONTACT WITH FOUR U.S. RABBIS WHO HAD RECENTLY VISITED MOROCCO (RABAT 2647) AND (B) TO PUT JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MOROCCO INTO ACTION IN ORDER TO CONVINCE AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS OF NECESSITY OF PREVENTING JORDAN FROM FALLING UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE THROUGH MORE MODERATE, REALISTIC APPROACH TO JORDAN'S DEFENSE NEEDS. HE WILL MAKE NO MOVE, HOWEVER, UNTIL HE KNOWS IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING CONCRETE IN MIND VIS-A-VIS JORDAN, AND THAT YOU CONSIDER THESE MOVES HELPFUL TO WHATEVER YOU MAY HAVE UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE ALSO ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO COMMUNICATE PRIVATELY WITH RABIN ON APPROACHING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

8. COMMENT: HASSAN'S RELATIONS WITH HUSSEIN MAY POSSIBLY HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK RECENTLY AS A RESULT OF
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JORDANIAN FAILURE TO TRANSFER 20 F-5AS AS PROMISED. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR BASIC AFFINITIES WOULD APPEAR TO MAKE HASSAN A PLAUSIBLE PARTICIPANT IN EFFORTS TO BRING HUSSEIN AROUND.

9. SENATOR PERCY INDICATES HE IS READY TO BE HELPFUL IN ANY WAY YOU WISH. HE PLANS TO BE IN TUNIS VISITING HIS DAUGHTER UNTIL JULY 17, SHOULD YOU WANT TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM. BECAUSE OF HIS CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HUSSEIN, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CUT SHORT HIS STAY IN TUNIS TO GO TO AMMAN IF YOU THINK THIS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

10. IN REVIEWING THIS PART OF THE MEETING WITH KING HASSAN, SENATOR PERCY NOTED THAT YOU MAY HAVE RECEIVED

MORE DETAILED, MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON HUSSEIN'S MOSCOW TRIP THAN HASSAN PASSED ON, AND THAT YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE SOMETHING IN MIND VIS-A-VIS JORDAN. WE AGREED THAT IN FINAL ANALYSIS SENATOR'S NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO SEE YOU ON HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO SEE IF HASSAN'S OFFER HAS ANY MERIT.

11. AT SENATOR'S REQUEST, I AM ASKING DEPARTMENT TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO HIM IN TUNIS FOR HIS EYES ONLY.
ANDERSON

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NNN

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